

Chipman Pond

52.4 acres

Laurel, Delaware

Fish Community

Approximately 2,000 fish died during the summer of 2011 from conditions created by a heavy algae bloom. The majority of fish that died were Bluegill although 20% were Largemouth Bass. In the spring of 2013, the Division of Fish and Wildlife sampled the fish community in Chipman Pond via electrofishing boat. The population has recovered since the fish kill and the abundance of Largemouth Bass is even greater than it was prior to the fish kill. There are a variety of size groups and relative weights (measure of condition or 'plumpness') were good overall. Bluegill comprise the majority of the panfish population despite being the species most impacted by the fish kill. This demonstrates the ability of Bluegill to quickly reestablish and reproduce when habitat is available and predatory pressure is not too high. All size groups of Bluegill were abundant except for fish >8". Relative weights were good for all size groups. Black Crappie are abundant although the population is dominated by 5-6" fish. A citation-sized crappie, measuring 12.5" and weighing 1lb 1oz, was caught by an angler in 2013. Yellow Perch and Redear Sunfish are also present but in relatively low numbers. American eel and golden shiner dominated the non-game fish community. Golden Shiner were so numerous in 2013 that large schools were observed leaping in the boat wake during fish community sampling.



Vegetation


The density of *hydrilla*, an invasive submersed aquatic plant, has fluctuated over the years and periodic applications of herbicides or mechanical harvest is necessary to maintain adequate open water for angling and boating. Floating mats of filamentous algae have also periodically become a nuisance and have to be controlled.

Access

Almost no shore angling access is available because the open shoreline is adjacent to County Road 465 (Chipmans Pond Rd) and there is no shoulder available for safe angling. The boat ramp can accommodate a number of boat trailers. There is minimal shoreline adjacent to the boat ramp that can be used for shore angling but please respect private property.



The boat ramp at Chipmans Pond






STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.




Help us prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species

(see Pond Map on next page)

Chipmans Pond Laurel, Delaware



Legend

-  Flow
-  Boat Ramp
-  parking
-  Vegetation

Surface Acres - 52.4

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

The boat ramp and parking can be accessed from Chipmans Pond Road.

